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Service Tips and Best Practices

Steering Rack Identification: Volkswagen Mk.3 Jetta and Golf

Brand	Original Grade/Supreme	Product	Tie Rod Ends	Date	September 2021
Part Number(s)	GEV378/GEV379/MEV378/MEV379/MES800492A/MES800493A				

Due to production variances at factory level and equipped vehicle trim options, the applications below may be equipped with one of two different steering rack types.

Application(s)
2002-1998 Volkswagen Cabrio
1999-1993 Volkswagen Golf
1999-1993 Volkswagen Jetta

Although the catalogue qualifiers (production date, model subtype and engine) apply in the majority of instances, it is recommended that the Professional Technician verify which steering rack type the vehicle is outfitted with when ordering replacement front inner tie rod ends or tie rod end assemblies. This will help ensure a frustration-free repair outcome.

To determine which steering rack type is outfitted, follow the inspection procedure below:

TRW Steering Rack

Visual inspection: A TRW steering rack will be black in color and have a comparatively smooth finish.

Alternatively, if the inner tie rod end has already been removed from the steering rack, inspect the threads on the steering rack side. A TRW steering rack will be constructed with internal threads (M14x1.5) and the inner tie rod will be characterized by external mating threads. **See Figure 1**.

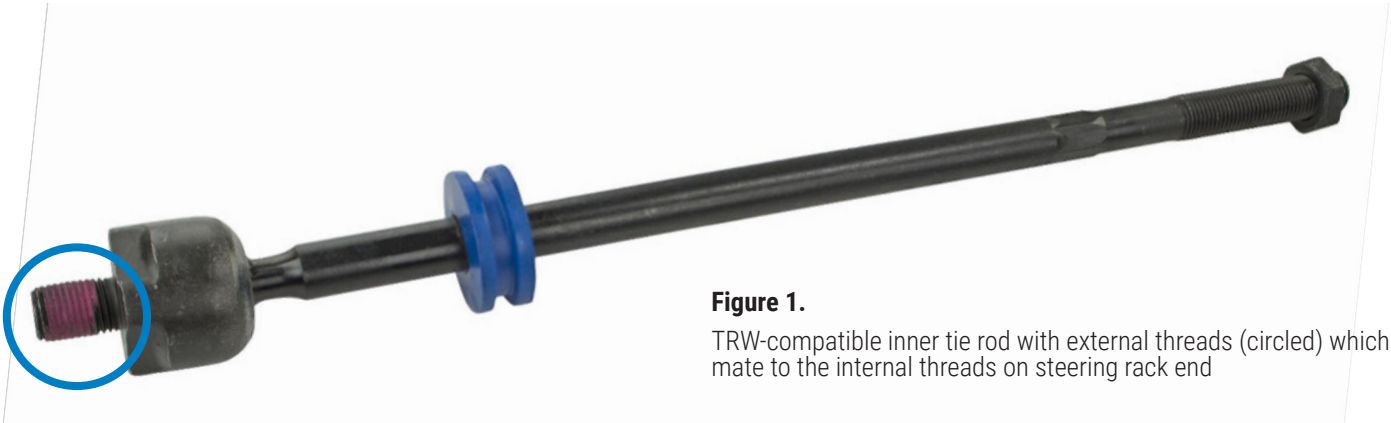


Figure 1.
TRW-compatible inner tie rod with external threads (circled) which mate to the internal threads on steering rack end

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ZF Steering Rack

Visual inspection: A ZF steering rack will be silver in color and have a distinct cross-hatched 'rough' finish.

Alternatively, if the inner tie rod end has already been removed from the steering rack, inspect the threads on the steering rack side. A ZF steering rack will be constructed with external threads (M22x1.5) and the inner tie rod end will be characterized by internal mating threads. **See Figure 2**.



Figure 2.
ZF- compatible inner tie rod end with internal threads (circled) which mate to external threads on steering rack end

Always refer to the factory service manual for correct diagnostic procedures, component removal and installation methods, as well as fastening torque values and procedures where applicable. Only use a calibrated torque wrench for final fastening.

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